(b) what are the details of these and other invaluable items which were damaged at the festivals;

(c) whether Government have fixed responsibility for such damages;

(d) whether any action has been initiated against such persons;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what were the reasons for sending such priceless art pieces for display at the above festivals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Twenty-six art objects including Didarganj Yakshi sent to the Festival of India exhibitions in U.S.A. and France have suffered some damage. One item *viz* Munal of Hookah has been missing.

(b) Details of the twenty-seven art objects are attached. [*See*—Appendix, CXI Annexure No. 5]

(c) to (e) All these art objects are insured on "wall to wall' basis. Orders have also been conveyed to the National Museum to inquire into the circumstances leading to the damages and to fix responsibility. Action is in progress.

(f) It is customary for museums participating in such International exhibitions/ festivals to project the best of the country's cultural heritage. Exhibition of such art pieces generates considerable interest and awareness among scolars and general public in the art and cultural heritage of the country.

Wagons and coaches for Indian Railways

151. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons and coaches required for Indian Railways at present;

(b) the number of wagons and coaches available for use;

(c) the number of old wagons and coaches in the country which need immediate replacement;

(d) the details of the gaps, if any, between requirement and availability of wagons and coaches; and

(e) the authority responsible to remove these gaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The approved acquisition programme of wagons and coaches both or additional and replacement account for 1986-87 is as under:—

*Wagons	20,000
*Coaches & EMUs . . — . .	1,282

(b) Holdings of wagons and coaches (as on 31.3.86) were as follows:—

*Wagons	5,33,142 (Prov.)
*Coaches & EMUs	— 38,232 (Prov.)

(c) Replacement of wagons and coaches is done on age-cum-condition basis. The number of wagons and coaches which have exceeded their codal life as on 31.3.86 is under:—

Wagons	22,573
*Coaches & EMUs . .	5379

(d) and (e) By and large, the rail transport targets for 1986-87 are expected to be achieved with the existing fleet of wagons and coaches and proposed acquisition.

Superfast train between Delhi, New Delhi and Howrah

152. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce

*All figures of wagons mentioned are in '4-wheeler units' and of coaches and EMUs in ''vehicle units'.

new super-fast passenger train between Delhi|New Delhi and Howrah;

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Seven pairs of Mail|Express trains, including 2 pairs of superfast trains, are available between Delhi|New Delhi and Howrah. Besides, the frequency of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Expresses has been increased from 4 to 5 days a week from 1.10.1986. These are considered adequate for the present level of traffic.

153. [Transferred to the 14the November, 1986.]

Railway Protection Force

154. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Railway Protection Force personnel have been entrusted with the maintenance of public order under the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Act, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): No, Sir.

Employment of Railway Protection Force personnel in the Intelligence agencies

155. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force personnel are on deputation with other Departments|organisations involved in intelligence or counter intelligence operations; and

(b) if so, what, are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No. However Railway Protection Force personnel have been sent on deputation to Departments like the Civil Aviation Security, Central Bureau of Investigation, Ministry of External Affairs etc. as and when requests are received from those departments.

(b) There is no bar in sending Railway Protection Force personnel on deputation to other Departments.

Railway Protection Force as an Armed Force

156. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to declare the Railway Protection Force as an Armed Force of the Union; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide the Railway Protection Force personnel with the same facilities and perquisites as are provided to armed forces in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Government has already declared RPF as an Armed Force of the Union by amending the original Act and retaining the earlier powers of arrest and search without warrant and to conduct enquiry (investigation) under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.

(b) Having regard to the duality in the constitution and functioning of the RPF, the appropriate facilities and perquisites for the RPF are under examination.

Establishment of new Railway Division at Sambalpur

157. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the establishment of a new Railway Division at